

Man, 64, Dies Here: Leaves Family of 17 Children

Act to End 'Murder Mile' Crashes

Taxpayer Middleman in City Pay Hike Request

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Head of Large Family Lived Here 8 Years

Conducted Tuesday afternoon were funeral services for a former Joshua Hendy Iron Works employee who died last Sunday leaving a family of 17 children—nine of whom live here.

The deceased is William Fields, 64, of 1620 West 219th street, a resident here for the past eight years.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Doris Frances Fields of the 219th street address, survivors include:

DAUGHTERS

Mrs. Wanda W. Johnston, 1620 West 219th street; Mrs. Billie Owens, 165 East 215th street; Mrs. Lucille Owens of Bellingham, Wash.; Mrs. Lillie Knight of Van Buren, Ark.; Mrs. Helen Epstein of Norfolk, Va.

SONS

Jimmie C. Fields, 1620 West 219th street; Dickie D. Fields, same; Charles A. Fields, same; Kenneth Waters, same; Bobby Waters, 2359 Maricopa place; Billy Joe Waters, 2309 1/2 Torrance boulevard; Jack Waters of Inglewood; Emmet Fields of Bellingham, Wash.; Woodrow Fields, same; Jewel Fields, same; Floyd Fields of Paris, Arkansas; and Richard Fields, U. S. Army in Japan.

Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Tess Sullivan of Paris, Arkansas; and Walter Fields of Kilgore, Texas.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon in the Stone and Myers Chapel with Rev. Lester R. Noles, of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Paramount, officiating.

Interment followed in Green Hills Memorial Park.

Mr. Fields, a native of Arkansas, died in the Harbor General Hospital after a 15-month illness.

Ambulance Aid

Was Famine; Now It's A Real Feast

This city, caught in an ambulance service famine for the past several months, is about to enjoy a feast, according to an announcement that two, and possibly three ambulance services, are to open offices in Torrance.

BETTER FOR VICTIMS

To the luckless Joe Citizen who might become an accident victim "sometime in the future in or near Torrance, the return of local ambulance service means quicker pickup service—a vital factor when seconds count.

Already settled in an office at 1313 Cabrillo avenue is the Jacobs' Ambulance Service of Gardena.

To open a new office at 2525 Torrance boulevard is a new ambulance service owned by Dave Figueroa, 1730 Date avenue, a resident of Torrance for the past 27 years, and Murvin Miller, 2130 Middlebrook road, a resident of Torrance for 22 years.

SURVEY UNDER WAY

Meanwhile Lennon Aguilar, owner-operator of the South Bay Ambulance Service, who has been serving the southern section of Torrance since Art Sullivan went out of business, said he was conducting a survey to determine the need for ambulance service in Torrance. His son, associated in the business, stated that although the population of Torrance does not warrant a full-time ambulance, the presence of local industries and the two hospitals was to be considered in the survey.

"We haven't made any definite plans to open an office

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Gibson Turns Out To Be Man of Few Words, Very Few

Constituents of John S. Gibson, representing the Shoeing Strip residents on the Los Angeles City Council, feel that their representative certainly began his political career on the right foot.

He made a short speech, a very short speech in accepting his new seat on the council Monday morning, said Gibson:

"Mr. Mayor, colleagues, constituents, and friends, I will attempt to serve you humbly and well!"



"RONNIE" HENDERSON ... First Day A Hero

New Salary Plan May Bring Taxes Up 20 Per Cent

Present demands of city employees for a new four-point salary adjustment schedule, if granted, may call for as much as a 20 per cent hike in the city tax rate, City Manager George W. Stevens forewarned this week.

The 220 city employees have asked for certain increases and fringe benefits which would cost the city approximately \$65,000 more per year, the account books show.

In a request presented to the council Tuesday night, June 26, the city workers asked the council to grant the following:

1. A continuance of the \$20 per month cost of living bonus and to make it an integral part of the salary schedule.
2. In addition, increase wages \$25 per month straight across the board.
3. Finance a hospitalization plan for the employees.
4. Reduce the present five-step salary schedule to a two-step plan.

The latter would mean that after one year employees would earn as much as present employees with five years employment time with the city.

Slated for sometime next week is a meeting with the council and a committee of city employees.

Stevens indicated that the requested adjustments could be financed either by a hike in the

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Ex-Principal On New Job, Saves Boy's Life

"Ronnie" Henderson, ex-principal of Fern Avenue Elementary School, turned out to be a hero this week on his first day at work on his new job in Palm Springs.

Henderson, former professional football player, dove into a mountain lake Tuesday to rescue a drowning lad. The former principal here was being taken on a tour of the Palm Springs Unified School District of which he is the new business manager, when the incident occurred.

It was only Monday night that the Board of Education accepted Henderson's resignation so that he might take the Palm Springs post.

Succeeding him is Charles Creclius, an acting-principal at the Garfield School in Pasadena.

The new principal, according to Albert N. Pagner, director of personnel of the local school district, is completing studies at the University of Southern California this summer, leading to a master's degree in education. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

Henderson, ex-Brooklyn Dodger halfback, moved his wife Bonnie, their two children, Kay 7 and Shelley 9, to the desert school district this week. He came to Torrance in April of last year.

Creclius, now living in Monrovia, is an Air Force veteran of three years service, as a Link Trainer operator.

Bang-up Grand Opening

Fireworks Sell Fast After Free Sample

Business was brisk this week at a Pacific Coast highway fireworks stand near the Watteria-Lomita boundary—and well it should have been.

The proprietors accidentally treated scores of onlookers to a free \$1000 display of pyrotechnics Saturday night—the likes of which probably never have been seen in this area.

Believed to have been started by a cigarette, the holocaust was so active with pinwheels, sparklers and what-have-you that Watteria firemen didn't approach the blaze until the last Roman candle went whoosh!

The best seat at the show was held down by R. D. Fernley, 31, of 2459 West Carson street, Torrance. He was at the stand when the blaze started—preparing the establishment for a bang-up grand

opening, but nothing like the one he got. Fernley evacuated the premises in a hurry but stayed around for the fireworks.

At the conclusion of the performance all that remained were charred ruins. However, the Torrance Veterans Service Council, owners of the stand, rebuilt it in plenty of time to catch the resultant publicity. They were back in business almost as fast as they'd gone out of it.



SCHOOL BOARD HEAD ...

Re-elected president of the Torrance Board of Education at its organizational meeting Monday night was John A. Shidler, Justice of the Peace of the Gardena Township, succeeding Carl D. Steele as vice-president was Mrs. Grace Wright, a member of the board since its inception.

Ask State Aid On 'Murder Mile' Intersection

The city is seeking to halt the bloody record being chalked up by accidents at Highway 101 and Newton street in the Center of "Murder Mile."

City Manager George W. Stevens this week sent a request to the State Division of Highways asking that an investigation of the intersection begin at once. Ultimately, Stevens hopes the division will install some type of traffic regulatory device on the state controlled highway.

CRIMSON RECORD

Stevens told the state agency that during the past three years there had been 59 persons injured and one killed at the intersection. A total of 43 accidents have occurred at the intersection since 1949 according to the accident record revealed by Police Chief John Stroh.

The "dark corner" chalked up its bloodiest record during the June 23-24 weekend when 13 persons were injured in two crashes within 24 hours.

SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC

It is hoped that the proposed intersection installation, if controlled by lights, would tend to slow down the high speed traffic along "Murder Mile" on Pacific Coast Highway between Hawthorne boulevard and the Lomita-Torrance city boundary.

The accident and death record for the stretch of highway either side of the Newton street intersection is even bloodier than the three-year accident record reported above.

Federal Aid for School Growing Pains Requested

Torrance school authorities this week sought federal aid to help ease the district's growing pains.

Results of a recent questionnaire filled in by local school children who were asked: "For whom does your father work?" indicate that the Torrance Unified School District is eligible for federal assistance.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The government, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of local schools, has set aside a fund to help districts educating children of parents engaged in defense production work. The survey here showed a high percentage of students with at least one parent working for a com-

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FOR PUBLICITY'S SAKE ... Little Christine Wallace is a bit skeptical about wanting to take advantage of the Kiwanis Club's free learn-to-swim program after this demonstration of aquatic skill by Mayor Bob Haggard, a Kiwanian. The mayor, wearing a suit he said he hadn't had on for years, assures her that the instructors at Alondra Park pool are quite capable of teaching her, and any other Torrance kid who wants to learn how to swim. (Herald type).

Kiwanis Club Sponsors Summer Swim Program

To the well-known expression, "Come on in, the water's fine," the Torrance Kiwanis Club is adding the phrase, "... And the transportation is free."

The local service club, in cooperation with the Torrance Recreation Department has agreed to furnish transportation for local kids between six and 12 years of age in a summertime learn-to-swim program.

Transportation from the city's parks will be furnished twice weekly to Alondra Park's open

air swimming pool. City buses, chartered by the club, will leave the various parks at 10 a.m. and will leave Alondra Park at 2:30 p.m.

Last year those children participating in the program financed their own transportation at \$2.75 each.

The program starts Tuesday, July 10 and ends on August 16. Between 500 and 1000 kids are expected to take advantage of the instructional and recreation-

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New Building Here Reaches Fever Pitch

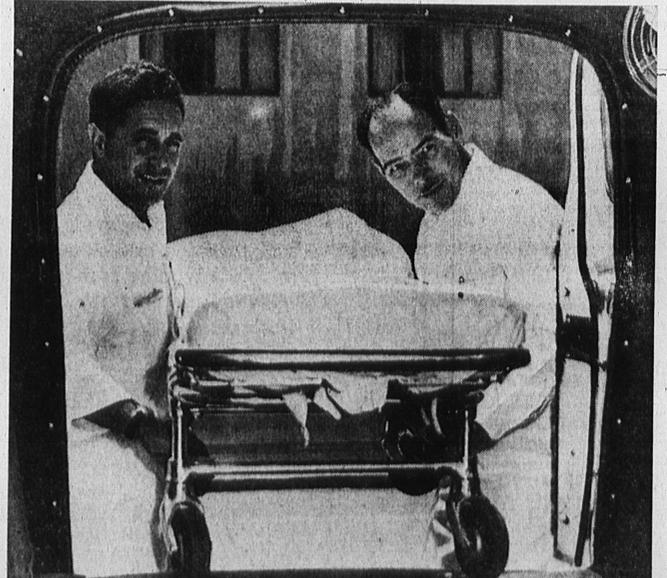
New homes, popping up faster than mushrooms after a spring rain, are evidence that the City of Torrance is headed for another record-breaking year of new construction.

More concrete and factual evidence is noted this week in the building permits issued during the first six months of 1951 which topped the January to June total of last year by more than \$1 1/2 million.

According to the records of Walter C. Bradford, city hall senior clerk, the city has issued \$7,835,608 in building permits since January 1 of this year. Last year at the end of June the city had written but \$6,307,807 in permits.

That was an all-time record—then.

Adding to last month's total were permits for nearly two million dollars for new homes issued to Torrance Gardens, developers of the huge new housing tract west of Crenshaw boulevard bordering Torrance boulevard. The company took out permits for 219 homes and 162 garages for a total of \$1,669,400. To be included in the permits to be issued this year, possibly next month, are permits for the construction of the Holywood Riviera School, the Madonna Elementary School, the El Nido School and the new Crenshaw School.



BETTER SERVICE COMING UP ... Dave Figueroa and Marvin Miller load a Guerne into their new ambulance which began service to local residents this week from a centrally located dispatching point in Torrance. Another ambulance service opened offices here this week, while still another concern is contemplating locating within the city. Until this week the city had no locally owned service. (Herald photo).

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